**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 8, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

A plurality of alignment features having cam followers are situated on the peripheral mounting plate. A plurality of linear cams are situated on the U-frame. Each of the linear cams are aligned to receive the alignment features. Once mated, the peripheral docking plate is placed into the docked position by sliding the linear cams~~clams~~ along cam guides. As a result of the sliding movement, the cam followers of the alignment features are guided along a slotted track within the linear cams thereby drawing the peripheral plate into the final docked position.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 10, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 3 and Fig. 5A also show index system 550, and Fig. 8 shows it in further detail. Support bracket 552 is attached to one end of threaded member 440. The other end of support bracket 552 is coupled to slotted plate 553. Slotted plate 553~~533~~ maintains detent plate 556 containing detent 601 by way of detent plate securing screws 558 (not included in Figs. 3 and 5A, but shown in Fig. 8). Lever 545 is maintained on a pivot held by pivot mount 554. One end of lever 545 engages detent 601 and the other end engages sprocket wheel 544, discussed in more detail below.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 13, line 3, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 9 is a cut-away, enlarged side view of the lever 545 at the index position as shown in Fig. 8 and described above. In Fig. 9, lever 545 engages sprocket wheel 544 by way of engaging pin 603. Spring 605 urges lever 545 towards detent 601 in detent plate 556. Because spring 605 maintains lever 545 in dent 601 and lever 545 is pivotally positioned at pivot block 554, engaging pin 603 attached to the other end of lever 545 engages sprocket wheel 544 [[444]] preventing crank 426 (See Fig. 8) from turning. To disengage lever 545 from an indexed position, either lever 545 is drawn away from detent 601 or engaging pin 603 is drawn away from sprocket wheel 544.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 13, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 10 is an enlarged perspective view of U-frame 401 above the indexed position shown in Fig. 8. As can be seen in Fig. 10, lever 545 is not engaged in detent 601 of detent

plate 556, nor is engaging pin 603 of the other end of lever~~level~~ 545 engaged in sprocket wheel 544. At the position shown in Fig. 10, hand wheel 426~~436~~ is allowed to turn.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 14, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 14 is an enlarged perspective view of one alignment feature 360 of a peripheral docking plate shown in Fig. 13. Alignment feature 360 includes a base 361 with sections 362, 363 and 364 extending therefrom. As shown, sections 362 and 364 are of different diameters; and section 363 is tapered between them. In an exemplary embodiment, section diameters become increasingly narrow approaching the tip of alignment feature 360. This is particularly useful when docking a test head with a peripheral device because the small diameter section 362 relative to other sections 363 and 364 allows for greater initial error when inserting alignment features 360 into cam assemblies 700. Alignment features 360 include cam followers 365, which extend from the sides of alignment features 360. Cam followers 365 engage appropriate grooves 701 which are formed in left 424, right 425 and center 412 linear cams.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 15, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Referring to Fig. 1, a peripheral docking plate 350~~401~~ is coupled to a peripheral (not shown). U-frame 401 is mounted to test head 300. Depending on the interface utilized between the peripheral and test head 300, U-frame 401 is set to a desired height in relation to test head surface 305. This height is carefully determined so as to establish a desired distance between the test head surface and the peripheral as previously described. As further discussed below, by adjusting the height of U-frame 401 with hand wheel 426, the desired height may be established before docking.

Please replace the paragraph, beginning at page 18, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the foregoing embodiment, movement of the linear cams along the cam guides was actuated manual actuation handles. As understood by one of ordinary skill in the art however, the movement of the linear cams along the cam~~can~~ guides may be replaced by other means. More generally, the alignment features and dock actuation mechanisms incorporated in the exemplary embodiment are guide pins and receptacles combined with linear cams driven by levers and fixed links. Those skilled in the art will recognize that there are many alternative solutions in the field of test head docking. These include, but

are not limited to: kinematic alignment features; gussets located in relationship to cams to provide initial alignment; circular cams instead of linear cams; cams operated by cables instead of rigid links, and electromagnetic, pneumatic, or vacuum driven or assisted actuation drivers.

Respectfully submitted,

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The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

**January 8, 2004**